

MALTA

ATT Nru XXI tal-2025

ATT maħruġ b'ligi mill-Parlament ta' Malta.

**ATT sabiex jemenda l-Att dwar iċ-
Ċittadinanza Maltija, Kap. 188.**

ACT No. XXI of 2025

AN ACT enacted by the Parliament of Malta.

**AN ACT to amend the Maltese
Citizenship Act, Cap. 188.**

Nagħti l-kunsens tiegħi.

(L.S.)

MYRIAM SPITERI DEBONO
President

24 ta' Lulju, 2025

ATT Nru XXI tal-2025

ATT sabiex jemenda l-Att dwar iċ-Ċittadinanza Maltija, Kap. 188.

IL-PRESIDENT, bil-parir u l-kunsens tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, imlaqqgħa f'dan il-Parlament, u bl-awtorità tal-istess, harget b'ligi dan li ġej:-

1. It-titolu fil-qosor ta' dan l-Att huwa l-Att tal-2025 li jemenda l-Att dwar iċ-Ċittadinanza Maltija, u dan l-Att għandu jinqara u jinftiehem haġa waħda mal-Att dwar iċ-Ċittadinanza Maltija, hawn iżjed 'il quddiem imsejjah l-"Att prinċipali". Titolu fil-qosor.
Kap. 188.
2. Fl-artikolu 2 tal-Att prinċipali t-tifsira "programm tal-investitur individwali" għandha tiġi mhassra. Emenda tal-artikolu 2 tal-Att prinċipali.
3. L-artikolu 3 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej: Emenda tal-artikolu 3 tal-Att prinċipali.
 - (a) fis-subartikolu (4) tiegħu l-kliem "1 ta' Awissu 2007" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "1 ta' Awwissu 2028";
 - (b) fis-subartikolu (5) tiegħu l-kliem "1 ta' Awissu 2007" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "1 ta' Awwissu 2028" u l-kliem "1 ta' Awissu 2010" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "1 ta' Awwissu 2028";

(ċ) fis-subartikolu (6) tiegħu l-kliem "31 ta' Lulju, 2010" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "1 ta' Awwissu 2028".

Emenda tal-artikolu 5 tal-Att prinċipali.

4. L-artikolu 5 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

(a) fis-subartikolu (4) tiegħu l-kliem "1 ta' Awwissu 2007" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "1 ta' Awwissu 2028";

(b) fis-subartikolu (5) tiegħu l-kliem "1 ta' Awwissu 2007" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "1 ta' Awwissu 2028" u l-kliem "1 ta' Awwissu 2010" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "1 ta' Awwissu 2028";

(ċ) fis-subartikolu (6) tiegħu l-kliem "1 ta' Awwissu 2007" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "1 ta' Awwissu 2028";

(d) fis-subartikolu (7) tiegħu l-kliem "31 ta' Lulju, 2010" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "1 ta' Awwissu 2028".

Emenda tal-artikolu 10 tal-Att prinċipali.

5. Is-subartikolu (9) tal-artikolu 10 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi sostitwit bis-subartikolu ġdid li ġej:

"(9) Minkejja d-dispożizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att jew ta' xi Att ieħor, il-Ministru jista' jagħti ċertifikat ta' naturalizzazzjoni bħala ċittadin ta' Malta abbażi tal-mertu lil frustier jew persuna apolidi, jiġifieri lil persuna li tagħti servizzi eċċezzjonali jew li tagħti kontribut eċċezzjonali, inkluż permezz tal-ħolqien ta' impjiegi, lir-Repubblika ta' Malta jew lill-umanità, jew li n-naturalizzazzjoni tagħha hija ta' interess eċċezzjonali għar-Repubblika ta' Malta:

Iżda għall-finijiet ta' dan is-subartikolu, "eċċezzjonali" tfisser manifestament superjuri jew li żżid il-valur, u "servizzi eċċezzjonali" u "kontribuzzjonijiet eċċezzjonali" għandhom jirreferu għal servizzi mogħtija u kontribuzzjonijiet magħmula minn xjenzati, riċerkaturi, atleti, nies sportivi, artisti, artisti kulturali, intraprendituri, filantropi u teknoloġisti, fost persuni oħra ta' interess għar-Repubblika ta' Malta minn żmien għal żmien, jew ta' interess għall-umanità u "interess eċċezzjonali" għandha tirreferi għal kwalunkwe persuna li l-Ministru jqis li għandha l-hiliet, il-profil, il-kwalitajiet, it-talenti u l-għarfien espert meħtieġa, li huma meqjusa li javvanzaw jew jibbenefikaw b'mod sinifikanti l-interess nazzjonali tar-Repubblika ta' Malta:

Iżda wkoll il-Ministru jista' anke jagħti ċertifikat ta' naturalizzazzjoni lil dipendenti eliġibbli ta' frustier jew persuna apolidi kif imsemmi aktar 'il fuq:

Iżda wkoll tali persuna għandha tissottometti applikazzjoni b'tali mod kif jista' jkun preskritt u wara li tkun ħadet il-ġurament ta' lealtà f'Malta."

6. L-artikolu 17 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

Emenda tal-artikolu 17 tal-Att prinċipali.

(a) is-subartikolu (1) tiegħu għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

(i) fil-paragrafu (b) tiegħu l-kliem "għall-adottant raġel; u" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "għall-adottant raġel;"

(ii) fil-paragrafu (ċ) tiegħu l-kliem "riferenza għall-adottanti." għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "riferenza għall-adottanti; u" u minnufih wara għandu jiġi miżjud il-paragrafu ġdid li ġej:

"(d) kull riferenza għall-ġenituri ta' persuna li tkun ġiet adottata legalment fi jew wara l-1 ta' Awwissu 2020, u li kienet fil-ġurnata effettiva tal-adozzjoni tagħha taht l-età ta' tmintax (18)-il sena, għandha tinftiehem bħala riferenza għall-adottanti.";

(b) is-subartikolu (2) tiegħu għandu jiġi sostitwit bis-subartikolu ġdid li ġej:

"(2) Għall-finijiet ta' dan l-Att:

(a) l-adozzjoni ta' kwalunkwe persuna li saret fi jew wara l-1 ta' Jannar 1977 u qabel l-1 ta' Awwissu 1989, ma għandhiex ikollha effett u għandha titqies daqslikieku ma saritx;

(b) l-adozzjoni ta' kwalunkwe persuna li saret fi jew wara l-1 ta' Awwissu 1989 u qabel l-1 ta' Awwissu 2020 li fil-ġurnata effettiva tal-adozzjoni tagħha kellha għaxar (10) snin jew iktar, ma għandhiex ikollha effett u għandha titqies daqslikieku ma saritx;

(ċ) l-adozzjoni ta' kwalunkwe persuna li saret fi jew wara l-1 ta' Awwissu 2020 li fil-ġurnata effettiva tal-adozzjoni tagħha kellha tmintax (18)-il sena jew iktar, ma għandhiex ikollha effett u għandha titqies daqslikieku ma saritx."

7. Il-paragrafu (i) tal-artikolu 24 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi mħassar.

Emenda tal-artikolu 24 tal-Att prinċipali.

Emenda tal-artikolu 25 tal-Att prinċipali.

8. L-artikolu 25 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

(a) is-subartikolu (1) tiegħu għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

(i) il-kliem "għal servizzi eċċezzjonali u l-programm ta' investituri individwali" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "skont l-artikolu 10(9)";

(ii) il-kliem "Avukat tal-Istat jew Segretarju Permanenti" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "Avukat tal-Istat, Segretarju Permanenti, Direttur Ġenerali jew Direttur tas-Servizz Pubbliku";

(b) fis-subartikolu (3) tiegħu l-kliem "għal servizzi eċċezzjonali" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "skont l-artikolu 10(9)";

(c) fis-subartikolu (6) tiegħu l-kliem "permezz ta' servizzi eċċezzjonali" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "skont l-artikolu 10(9)";

(d) fis-subartikolu (8) tiegħu l-kliem "għal servizzi eċċezzjonali jew il-programm ta' investituri individwali." għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "skont l-artikolu 10(9).".

Sostituzzjoni tal-artikolu 25A tal-Att prinċipali.

9. L-artikolu 25A tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi sostitwit bl-artikolu ġdid li ġej:

"Investigazzjoni ta' lmenti.

25A. (1) Ir-Regolatur jista' wkoll jinvestiga lmenti riċevuti mill-applikant fil-forma preskritta, dwar il-proċess ta' applikazzjoni għall-għoti taċ-ċittadinanza Maltija permezz ta' naturalizzazzjoni abbażi tal-mertu, li wassal għaċ-ċaħda ta' tali applikazzjoni bil-mod preskritt taħt dan l-Att.

(2) Ir-Regolatur għandu jippreżenta l-konklużjonijiet tiegħu lill-Ministru."

Emenda tal-artikolu 25B tal-Att prinċipali.

10. Fis-subartikolu (1) tal-artikolu 25B tal-Att prinċipali l-kliem "għal servizzi eċċezzjonali." għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "abbażi tal-mertu."

Emenda tal-artikolu 27 tal-Att prinċipali.

11. Minnufih wara s-subartikolu (3) tal-artikolu 27 tal-Att

prinċipali għandu jiġi miżjud is-subartikolu ġdid li ġej:

"Att Nru XXI (4) L-Att tal-2025 li jemenda l-Att dwar iċ-
tal-2025. Ċittadinanza Maltija ma għandux japplika fir-rigward ta'
kwalunkwe applikazzjonijiet għall-ġhoti ta' ċittadinanza
Maltija permezz ta' naturalizzazzjoni ppreżentati skont l-
artikolu 10(9) tal-Att, qabel id-dhul fis-seħħ ta' dan l-Att,
kif soġġett għal kwalunkwe regolamenti li jistgħu jiġu
preskritti skont dan l-Att."

Mgħoddi mill-Kamra tad-Deputati fis-Seduta Nru 369 tat-23 ta'
Lulju, 2025.

ANĠLU FARRUGIA
Speaker

ELEANOR SCERRI
Skrivan tal-Kamra tad-Deputati

I assent.

(L.S.)

MYRIAM SPITERI DEBONO
President

24th July, 2025

ACT No. XXI of 2025

AN ACT to amend the Maltese Citizenship Act, Cap. 188.

BE IT ENACTED by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

Short title.

Cap. 188.

Amendment of
article 2 of the
principal Act.

Amendment of
article 3 of the
principal Act.

1. The short title of this Act is the Maltese Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2025 and this Act shall be read and construed as one with the Maltese Citizenship Act, hereinafter referred to as the "principal Act".

2. In article 2 of the principal Act the definition "individual investor programme" shall be deleted.

3. Article 3 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

(a) in sub-article (4) thereof the words "1st August 2007" shall be substituted by the words "1st August 2028";

(b) in sub-article (5) thereof the words "1st August 2007" shall be substituted by the words "1st August 2028" and the words "1st August 2010" shall be substituted by the words "1st August 2028";

(c) in sub-article (6) thereof the words "31st July, 2010"

shall be substituted by the words "1st August 2028".

4. Article 5 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

Amendment of
article 5 of the
principal Act.

(a) in sub-article (4) thereof the words "1st August 2007" shall be substituted by the words "1st August 2028";

(b) in sub-article (5) thereof the words "1st August 2007" shall be substituted by the words "1st August 2028" and the words "1st August 2010" shall be substituted by the words "1st August 2028";

(c) in sub-article (6) thereof the words "1st August 2007" shall be substituted by the words "1st August 2028";

(d) in sub-article (7) thereof the words "31st July, 2010" shall be substituted by the words "1st August 2028".

5. Sub-article (9) of article 10 of the principal Act shall be substituted by the following new sub-article:

Amendment of
article 10 of the
principal Act.

"(9) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Act or any other Act, the Minister may grant a certificate of naturalisation as a citizen of Malta by merit to an alien or stateless person, namely to a person who renders exceptional services or who makes an exceptional contribution, including through job creation, to the Republic of Malta or to humanity, or whose naturalisation is of exceptional interest to the Republic of Malta:

Provided that for the purposes of this sub-article, "exceptional" means manifestly superior or adding value, and "exceptional services" and "exceptional contributions" shall refer to services rendered and contributions made by scientists, researchers, athletes, sports persons, artists, cultural performers, entrepreneurs, philanthropists and technologists, amongst other persons of interest to the Republic of Malta from time to time, or to humanity and "exceptional interest" shall refer to any person who shall be deemed by the Minister to possess the necessary skills, profile, qualities, talents and expertise that are considered to significantly advance or benefit the national interest of the Republic of Malta:

Provided further that the Minister may also grant a certificate of naturalisation to an eligible dependent of an alien or a stateless person as referred to above:

Provided further that an application is submitted by such person in such manner as may be prescribed and upon

taking the oath of allegiance in Malta."

Amendment of
article 17 of the
principal Act.

6. Article 17 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

(a) sub-article (1) thereof shall be amended as follows:

(i) in paragraph (b) thereof the words "male adopter; and" shall be substituted by the words "male adopter;"

(ii) in paragraph (c) thereof the words "reference to the adopters." shall be substituted by the words "reference to the adopters; and" and immediately thereafter there shall be added the following new paragraph:

"(d) any reference to the parents of a person who was lawfully adopted on or after the 1st August 2020 and who was on the effective date of his adoption under the age of eighteen (18) years, shall be construed as a reference to the adopters.";

(b) sub-article (2) thereof shall be substituted by the following new sub-article:

"(2) For the purposes of this Act:

(a) the adoption of any person made on or after the 1st January 1977 and before the 1st August 1989 shall be without effect and shall be treated as if it had not been made;

(b) the adoption of any person made on or after the 1st August, 1989 and before the 1st August 2020 who on the effective date of his adoption was ten (10) years or over, shall be without effect and shall be treated as if it had not been made;

(c) an adoption of any person made on or after the 1st August 2020 who on the effective date of his adoption was eighteen (18) years or over, shall be without effect and shall be treated as if it had not been made."

Amendment of
article 24 of the
principal Act.

7. Paragraph (i) of article 24 of the principal Act shall be deleted.

Amendment of
article 25 of the
principal Act.

8. Article 25 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

(a) sub-article (1) thereof shall be amended as follows:

(i) the words "for exceptional services and the individual investor programme" shall be substituted by the words "in accordance with article 10(9)";

(ii) the words "State Advocate or Permanent Secretary" shall be substituted by the words "State Advocate, Permanent Secretary, Director General or Director of the Public Service";

(b) in sub-article (3) thereof the words "for exceptional services" shall be substituted by the words "in accordance with article 10(9)";

(c) in sub-article (6) thereof the words "through exceptional services" shall be substituted by the words "in accordance with article 10(9)";

(d) in sub-article (8) thereof the words "for exceptional services or the individual investor programme." shall be substituted by the words "in accordance with article 10(9).".

9. Article 25A of the principal Act shall be substituted by the following new article:

Substitution of article 25A of the principal Act.

"Investigation of complaints.

25A. (1) The Regulator may also investigate complaints received by the applicant in the prescribed form, about the application process for the granting of Maltese citizenship by naturalisation on the basis of merit, which resulted in the refusal of such application in the manner prescribed under this Act.

(2) The Regulator shall present his conclusions to the Minister."

10. In sub-article (1) of article 25B of the principal Act the words "for exceptional services." shall be substituted by the words "on the basis of merit."

Amendment of article 25B of the principal Act.

11. Immediately after sub-article (3) of article 27 of the principal Act there shall be added the following new sub-article:

Amendment of article 27 of the principal Act.

"Act No. XXI of 2025.

(4) The Maltese Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2025 shall not apply in respect of any applications for the granting of Maltese citizenship by naturalisation filed in accordance with article 10(9) of the Act, before the coming into force of this Act, subject to any regulations as may be prescribed under this Act."

A 526

Passed by the House of Representatives at Sitting No. 369 of the
23rd July, 2025.

ANĠLU FARRUGIA
Speaker

ELEANOR SCERRI
Clerk of the House of Representatives